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8 January 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: "Total to Total" (Constructive Travel Computation)

1. We have received for review a portion of a draft memorandum to be issued by Finance Division which will outline the Agency's policy with respect to constructive travel computations. We were specifically asked to comment on provisions for "total to total" computations.

2. We have gone over this proposal very carefully and feel that it would be inappropriate to adopt this system at the present time. For one thing, the Comptroller General has resisted this concept on at least one occasion, in which he found it inconsistent with 5 USC 539 and paragraph 13 of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations. Comptroller General Decision E-131381, dated June 24, 1957. I have learned that the site auditors at the Department of State have recently taken exception to this type of computation using the above decision as a basis for the exception. It is my understanding that State is preparing a reply and that if this reply takes issue with the audit exception, the matter will be referred to the Comptroller General's Office of General Counsel for a formal opinion.

3. I discussed this matter at length with Henry Barclay of GAO and he agrees that we should, by all means, wait the outcome of the State Department's dispute before making a final decision on accepting or rejecting "total to total" computations in this Agency.

/s/

Office of General Counsel

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cc:

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ANNEX 1

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